

Mail 9-7-32

## ‘VARSITY WOULD WELCOME PSYCHOLOGIST

### Adelaide Professor Emphatic

## CHILD STUDY

“ADELAIDE University would welcome the Government appointment of a psychologist to deal with delinquent children,” said Prof. McKellar Stewart, who occupies the chair of philosophy and psychology, today.

Rev. Donovan F. Mitchell said yesterday that the University was not making an effort to help delinquent children by psychological treatment.

“I see no reason—if the Government asks for it—why there should not be a psychological clinic attached to the University, just as there is a medical clinic,” added Prof. McKellar Stewart. “Undoubtedly, an official psychologist—and preferably, in my opinion, one whose training is based on a sound medical course—would help toward solving the problem of delinquent children.

“Members of the staff of Adelaide University have discussed the matter with one another, and the establishment of a Government psychologist would help to bring some members’ ideals to fruition.

“Some time ago a deputation approached the Government to ask for that very thing, among others, to deal with delinquents. It was not sponsored by Adelaide University, but members of the University were included in the deputation. The Government told the deputation it had not the funds to put the scheme into operation.

### TWO ALTERNATIVES

“If the Government should decide on it, it has two alternatives, either to make use of the University trained psychologists already acting for the Education Department and privately, or to engage a specially trained psychologist, in which case the University would no doubt co-operate.

“I sympathise with the Rev. Donovan Mitchell when he seeks to make the resources of the University more fully available to the public, as he did in his statement in yesterday’s ‘News.’

“But I cannot agree with him when he says that the University should inaugurate a psychological clinic. Passing over such of his remarks as ‘abstract knowledge’—of which there is no such thing—I want to emphasise that the function of the University is not to institute action in social matters.

“The University’s function is to teach, to make knowledge, and to make knowledge available to men entering professions. That is its reason for existing. It is pleased to co-operate in social betterment movements, but any movement such as the institution of psychological treatment for delinquents must be started either by the Government or by the demand of the community.

### WELL SUPPORTED

“Mr. Mitchell says, ‘I am disappointed with the University’s lack of effect on the life of the people of South Australia.’

“By the two main tests, this statement is not correct. The tests of a University’s effect on the life of the community are the support given by the Government and the support given by the public.

“Adelaide University is well supported by the Government; it received a £20,000 grant in 1920, purely because of the work it did in training professional members of the community.

“Its private endowments put it high in the ranks of Australian Universities. In spite of the depression, donations continue to be received for University work. The support of people and Government is not given to a teaching body lacking in effect.”

### ADVOCATED FOR YEARS

Miss Dorothy Vaughan is eager for the appointment of a Government psychologist. She is a member of the Public Relief and Children’s Welfare Board, and of the Women’s Non-Party Association.

“The Women’s Non-Party Association has been advocating a Government psychologist for years, to deal with delinquent children,” she said. “In New South Wales, every child who is brought up before the court is examined by a psychologist, who reports on his condition, and frequently succeeds in removing the cause of it.”

News 8-7-32

## TO HELP YOUNG CRIMINALS

### “S.A. Needs Trained Psychologist”

## MINISTER’S VIEW

SOUTH Australia needs a trained psychologist to report on its young criminals and to visit its prisons, says the Rev. Donovan F. Mitchell, minister of Flinders Street Baptist Church.

Both the State and the Church was trying to do something for the delinquents of Adelaide, and both were failing, he said today.

“There is the University, which should be doing something, but I must say I am very disappointed with the University’s lack of effect on the life of the people of South Australia,” he said.

“After all, the University has a responsibility to the people. Immense sums of money have been spent on it. It is lecturing on all things under heaven, but it is not being rightly used when it keeps on merely with abstract knowledge.

“This State needs co-ordination between the Church and the university, with responsibility to the State, to help the wayward and the poor. Look how the Church could help—it has thousands of pounds’ worth of buildings, some of which are not used at all. In South Australia is some of the finest church equipment in Australia, and much of it is going to waste.

### “CO-OPERATION NEEDED”

“In my own church,” said Mr. Mitchell, “we have 150 young people from this city coming to Sunday school—but I admit we are not giving them what we should.

“How can we, without co-ordination? We need a strong link between Church, State, and University to solve the problems of poverty and criminality,” he said.

Mr. Mitchell says we are wasting sentiment on our delinquents when we should be applying psychology to them.

“No country in the world has more pity for criminals and the wayward than Australia. Every now and again there are emotional agitations on their behalf. But what good can these sentimental outbursts do?

“We need a psychologist here like Prof. Maurice Miller, of the University of Tasmania. Prof. Miller was appointed official psychologist. All doubtful cases were referred to him; he psycho-analysed some; he gave evidence in court, and he visited prisons officially. He has done an immense amount of good, and he always commands a good hearing from judges.”

Mr. Mitchell recently interviewed William Henry Bowd, the youth who has frequently escaped from the Magill Reformatory, and who may now be committed to Yatala Labor Prison.

News 12-7-32

“Imagine molecules as a lot of individual grapes, then colloids are a bunch of them,” says Dr. S. W. Pennycook, explaining the subject of his lecture at the University tonight.

“Most people know that molecules are what are formed when such a soluble matter as sugar is dissolved in liquid,” says Dr. Pennycook. “The sugar breaks up into millions and millions of these molecules.”

“Certain materials will not dissolve of their own accord. If a substance can be found that will cause the materials to dissolve in liquid then colloids are produced. These colloids are bunches of molecules, held together by the dispersing substance.”

Ad. 13-7-32

## CREATING WORK

### £12,000 On Building At University

## SPENDING GRANT

### Premier Tackles Big Task

The Unemployment Relief Council has approved so far of expenditure totalling £130,605 out of the £390,000 Federal grant, including £12,000 towards the erection of a new chemistry building at the Adelaide University.

The University is to provide all materials, at a cost of not less than £16,000, and the £12,000 contributed by the Government will give employment to 50 men. The building will be a two-storied brick structure, between the Animal Nutrition laboratory and the Students’ Union building, facing Riverside Drive. It will contain up-to-date laboratories, lecture rooms, theatres and store rooms. Plans and specifications are almost complete.

At present the laboratories are in the Prince of Wales building, erected in 1900, and in a wooden building north of the Elder Conservatorium, built about 12 years ago. The accommodation has long been inadequate, and the University Council for some years has been diverting what money it could into a fund for the new building. The reduced income of the University, however, checked the hope of adding to the fund, and application was made to the Government for assistance from the unemployment grant. It was pointed out that as chemistry was required for all professions, and that a good deal of advice was tendered to industrial concerns and agriculturalists by the University, the work of the laboratory was one of the reproductive works of the State.

Ad. 13-7-32

## HOW COLLOIDS ARE FORMED

### Mixing Petrol And Water

Many-hued “sols,” or colloid liquids, “gel” (or jelly type) colloids, varying from a poached egg to a substance containing 98 per cent. kerosene, 2 per cent water, and a little soap, were displayed last night in the University public lecture by Dr. S. W. Pennycook. Colloids, he explained, resulted from molecular distribution by which incompatible substances, such as water and petrol were formed into an emulsion by the introduction of another agent, such as soap.

The petrol particles collected in groups and were suspended in the water, from which they were protected by an army of soap molecules. A perfectly stable emulsion resulted. One of the best examples of the formation of an emulsion occurred in washing the hands. The soap emulsified the natural fat particles on the hands and carried away the dirt. Rubber latex was a natural colloid. Rubber was obtained by dispersing the colloid by the addition of acetic acid, which precipitated the pure rubber.

Gels were examples of colloids which on coagulation absorbed water and were in some degree solidified. The most infinitely complex gel, Dr. Pennycook said, was the human body, which was made up of gels, enclosed by the skin, itself a hardened colloid.

Dr. Pennycook showed how milk formed into butter by a process of colloidal inversion. Groups of butter fat molecules suspended in water became, through churning, groups of water molecules surrounded by fat.